WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cervical sampling apparatus, comprising:

a vaginal insertion tube;

an introduction guide member for being removably positioned within the vaginal insertion tube, the introduction guide member extending beyond an end of the tube when inserted therein for guiding the vaginal insertion tube into a vaginal cavity; and

a cervical sampler for being slidably and rotatably disposed in the vaginal insertion tube after the introduction guide member is removed from the vaginal insertion tube, the cervical sampler comprising a sample collecting member for obtaining a cervical sample when positioned within the vaginal cavity, a forward end including a holder for mating with the sample collecting member and a rear end for grasping by an operator.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an insertion position indicator is located along a length of the vaginal insertion tube.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the insertion position indicator includes a discontinuity along the vaginal insertion tube that can be felt by a user.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rear end of the cervical sampler includes a handle.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the holder mates with the sampling collecting member such that the sample collecting member rotates when the handle is rotated.

6. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the cervical sampler further includes at least two alignment members that align the cervical sampler with a longitudinal axis of the

vaginal insertion tube when the cervical sampler is positioned within the vaginal insertion tube.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the alignment members are integrally formed with an elongated portion of the cervical sampler.

8. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the vaginal insertion tube includes a signaling member for cooperating with a signaling member of the cervical sampler to indicate to the user when the handle has been rotated past a reference point.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the signaling member of the cervical sampler includes a protuberance.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the signaling member of the vaginal insertion tube includes a notch.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the introduction guide member includes a forward end and a rear end, the forward end of the introduction guide member having a guide head including a tapered portion, the rear end of the introduction guide member having a stop member.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the tapered portion of the guide head is substantially aligned with a tapered edge of the vaginal insertion tube for creating a substantially continuous tapered surface.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the guide head of the introduction guide member includes an elongated inner passageway for allowing fluid from the vaginal cavity to enter the guide head.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the introduction guide member further includes an elongated member extending between the guide head and the rear end, the elongated member having an internal passageway aligned with the passageway in the guide head for allowing fluid to exit the vaginal cavity through the introduction guide member.

15. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sample collecting member includes a cervical sample brush.

16. A method for cervical sampling, said method comprising the steps of:

a) introducing a cervical sampling member into a vaginal cavity;

b) collecting a cervical sample from the vaginal cavity using the cervical sampling member;

c) removing the cervical sampling member from the vaginal cavity; and

d) applying an ethanol based fixative onto the cervical sampling member carrying the cervical sample.

17. The method of claim 16 further including the step of retaining the cervical sampling member with the ethanol based fixative in a sampling collection container.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said fixative comprises at least about 95% ethanol.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said fixative further comprises about 2.5% carbowax.

20. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of:

wherein the step of introducing the cervical sampling member into the vaginal cavity includes the steps of:

a) inserting an introduction guide member into a vaginal insertion tube so that a portion of the introduction guide member extends outwardly from a forward end of the vaginal insertion tube;

b) introducing and advancing the vaginal insertion tube along with the inserted introduction guide member into the vaginal cavity;

c) withdrawing the introduction guide member from the vaginal insertion tube;

d) advancing the vaginal insertion tube further into the vaginal cavity after withdrawing the introduction guide member until the vaginal insertion tube has reached a sampling position;

e) inserting the cervical sampling member including a sample collecting member into the vaginal insertion tube; and

f) extending the sample collecting member into the vaginal cavity from an end of the vaginal insertion tube.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of collecting a cervical sample comprises the step of contacting a portion of cervical tissue within the vaginal cavity with the sample collecting member.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of coating the introduction guide member with a surgical lubricant.

23. The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of removing the sample collecting member from a holder portion of the cervical sampler after the fixative has been applied onto the sample collecting member.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of inserting the cervical sampling member includes substantially maintaining the vaginal insertion tube within the vaginal cavity at a sampling position.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of withdrawing the introduction guide member from the vaginal insertion tube further includes substantially maintaining the position of the vaginal insertion tube as the introduction guide member is withdrawn.

26. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of advancing the vaginal insertion tube and the inserted introduction guide member into the vaginal cavity includes the step of advancing the vaginal insertion tube until a mid-point of the vaginal insertion tube is substantially proximate a wall of the vaginal cavity.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of collecting a cervical sample with the sample collecting member includes rotating the cervical sampling member at least ten complete revolutions.

28. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of applying the fixative onto the cervical sampling member includes the step of dripping, pouring or spraying the fixative onto the cervical sample.